

**Des Moines Police Department  
Animal Control Division  
Barking Dog Complaint Packet**

A certain amount of noise must be tolerated living in urban and suburban areas, as they are part of daily life. However, when the noise becomes unreasonable, such as a chronic, excessive barking dog, we offer suggestions that can help reinstate peace and quiet to your neighborhood.

The first course of action is to speak to the dog owner directly, or if that is not possible, sending a letter- being neighborly, offering solutions and compromises, and allowing a remedy period are all part of being community oriented and solving the problem at a neighborhood level.

If that approach is unsuccessful, please complete this packet and submit it to the Des Moines Police Department 21900-11 Av S, Des Moines, WA 98198 (206) 878-3301 (206) 870-6549; we will then contact you for additional information and to assist with solving your barking problem.

**Record of personal contact with dog owner/keeper:**

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Complainant Name	Date	Time
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**List of Complainants:** A minimum of **three** complainants is needed; each must reside within a separate household and be over 18 years of age. Each must also complete the “Animal Control Division Complaint Report” (included) documenting the dates, times and duration of at least five incidents of “unreasonable” barking, and be willing to testify in court.

Complainant #1 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Complainant #2 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Complainant #3 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**ANIMAL CONTROL DIVISION  
COMPLAINT REPORT**

**Complainant:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Last Name	First	Middle	Date of Birth
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**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Number/Street	City	State	Zip
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**Phones:** \_\_\_\_\_

Home	Work	Other	
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**Number of pets owned: Cats:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Dogs:** \_\_\_\_\_ **License Numbers:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Violator:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Last name	First	Middle	Date of Birth
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**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Number/Street	City	State	Zip
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**Phones:** \_\_\_\_\_

Home	Work	Other	
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**Number of pets owned: Cats:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Dogs:** \_\_\_\_\_ **License Numbers:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Description of violating pet(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative of violation:** On this date: \_\_\_\_\_ at this time: \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM  
at this location: \_\_\_\_\_  
the following occurred: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*"I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct; that I am willing to testify to this in a court of law." RCW 9A.72.085*

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Officer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ANIMAL CONTROL DIVISION  
COMPLAINT REPORT**

**Complainant:**

	Last Name	First	Middle	Date of Birth
<b>Address:</b>	_____			
	Number/Street	City	State	Zip
<b>Phones:</b>	_____			
	Home	Work	Other	
<b>Number of pets owned:</b>	<b>Cats:</b> _____	<b>Dogs:</b> _____	<b>License Numbers:</b> _____	

**Violator:**

	Last name	First	Middle	Date of Birth
<b>Address:</b>	_____			
	Number/Street	City	State	Zip
<b>Phones:</b>	_____			
	Home	Work	Other	
<b>Number of pets owned:</b>	<b>Cats:</b> _____	<b>Dogs:</b> _____	<b>License Numbers:</b> _____	
<b>Description of violating pet(s):</b>	_____			

**Narrative of violation:** On this date: \_\_\_\_\_ at this time: \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM  
at this location: \_\_\_\_\_  
the following occurred: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*"I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct; that I am willing to testify to this in a court of law." RCW 9A.72.085*

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Officer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ANIMAL CONTROL DIVISION  
COMPLAINT REPORT**

**Complainant:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Last Name	First	Middle	Date of Birth
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**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Number/Street	City	State	Zip
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**Phones:** \_\_\_\_\_

Home	Work	Other	
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**Number of pets owned: Cats:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Dogs:** \_\_\_\_\_ **License Numbers:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Violator:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Last name	First	Middle	Date of Birth
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**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Number/Street	City	State	Zip
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**Phones:** \_\_\_\_\_

Home	Work	Other	
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**Number of pets owned: Cats:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Dogs:** \_\_\_\_\_ **License Numbers:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Description of violating pet(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative of violation:** On this date: \_\_\_\_\_ at this time: \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM  
at this location: \_\_\_\_\_  
the following occurred: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*"I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct; that I am willing to testify to this in a court of law." RCW 9A.72.085*

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Officer:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Barking . . .

is a normal behavior for dogs; they bark for many reason, and often, just a few barks is all that is needed for them to get their message across.

However, when dogs bark excessively and become “*nuisance barkers*”, the situation quickly turns bad. Nuisance barkers often result in frustrated dog owners and irritated neighbors, and the dogs themselves can end up at the animal shelter. Entire neighborhoods can be disrupted, and neighbors who once were friends can become bitter enemies over a nuisance barker.

Often, dog owners don’t know where to begin to deal with this problem; The following **15** suggestions will help achieve a happy dog, a happy dog owner, and happy neighbors who can again enjoy their peace and quiet.

1. **Have the dog spayed or neutered;** altered dogs are generally calmer and quieter than non-altered dogs.
2. **Take the dog to obedience classes;** dogs that have learned to understand commands (“No Bark”) can be quieted more effectively.
3. **Give the dog lots of exercise;** often nuisance barkers have pent-up energy they need to expend. (“A tired dog is a good dog!”)
4. **Have the dog more involved with the family;** dogs are pack animals, and nuisance barkers are often frustrated at being left alone.
5. **Take the dog in for a thorough vet exam;** sometimes dogs bark excessively if they are ill, in pain or suffering from parasites.
6. **Give the dog lots of (safe) toys and chewies;** for example, hard rubber dog toys that can be stuffed with biscuits, cheese and peanut butter can keep dogs occupied for hours.
7. **Have a pet-sitter exercise the dog each day;** reputable pet-sitting companies or a neighbor child may be able to give the dog the interaction it needs to be happier and quieter.
8. **Take the dog on errands and excursions;** if it is not too hot, dogs love to go with their families instead of being left home alone.

9. **Install a “doggie-door” into the house or garage;** sometimes dogs just want to be inside, instead of outside in the yard all day.
10. **If there are multiple dogs, put one outside at a time;** two (or three or four) dogs barking are much more annoying than just one, plus they encourage each other to bark more...put one outside and keep the rest in the house, and then rotate as needed.
11. **Feed the dog quality dog food;** lesser quality foods can have added sugars, preservatives and colors that can make dogs hyperactive.
12. **Contact a dog behaviorist/trainer;** sometimes there are severe emotional issues that need to be addressed with the dog.
13. **Keep the dog inside the house at night;** dogs tend to be even noisier in the dark, and no one deserves to be awakened all night long by a nuisance barker alerting on raccoons and such.
14. **Block visual stimulation;** building a solid board fence or enclosing the dog in a different part of the yard may reduce the visual triggers.
15. **An additional solution may be a quality anti-bark collar;** there are different types available, so consult with a trainer on the appropriate type for the dog. Also, *training* with the collar is essential for it to be humane and effective.

If you are experiencing “nuisance barker” issues with your dog, please take the time and expend the effort to follow all of the above suggestions.

In addition, you may want to make your neighbors aware of your plan and keep them updated on your progress, so they know you are taking steps to solve the problem.

***Be a responsible pet owner!***